

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00013 141601Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 OPR-01 USSS-00

OMB-01 NIC-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 NEA-09 A-01 /082 W
----- 023782

P 141055Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2209

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SEDU, GR

SUBJECT: STUDENTS OCCUPY THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL SCHOOL

REF: THESSALONIKI 10 AND 12

1. MARCH BY MEDICAL STUDENTS TO DRAMATIZE DEMANDS FOR
OUSTER OF CERTAIN PROFESSORS (REFS) TOOK PLACE AS
PLANNED AT 1500 JAN 13. APPROX 4,000-5,000 STUDENTS (LOCAL
PRESS EXAGGERATES FIGURE UP TO 10,000) GATHERED ON
CAMPUS FOR SPEECHES, MARCH THROUGH MAJOR THESSALONIKI
STREETS, AND SUBSEQUENT "CAPTURE" OF MEDICAL SCHOOL
BUILDING AT ABOUT 1800 HOURS.

2. APPROX 600 STUDENTS REMAINED IN BUILDING OVERNIGHT
AND PLAN TO STAY UNTIL GOVERNMENT ACTS ON DEMANDS FOR
REMOVAL OF US PROFESSOR CHRISTOFORIDES AND OTHERS
ACCUSED OF COLLABORATION WITH JUNTA. MARCH AND
OCCUPATION OF BUILDING APPEARED WELL ORGANIZED AND
TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENTS OR POLICE INTERVENTION.

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PAGE 02 THESSA 00013 141601Z

3. THESSALONIKI UNIV RECTOR MOLYIOTIS AND SENIOR

OFFICIALS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN ATHENS JAN 14 WITH
MINED ZEPPUS IN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE IMPASSE. MEANTIME,
THESSALONIKI CAMPUS IS QUIET, ALTHOUGH STUDENTS OF
SEVERAL OTHER FACULTIES BOYCOTTING CLASSES TO SHOW
SOLIDARITY WITH MEDICAL STUDENTS. WHILE SPECIFIC ISSUE HAS
BEEN REMOVAL OF CONTROVERSIAL PROFESSORS, ORGANIZED
GROUPS, INCLUDING MAOIST AASPE, HAVE INTERJECTED
POLITICAL DEMANDS AND NUMEROUS RED FLAGS IN EVIDENCE
DURING PARADE. SPEAKERS ADDRESSING RALLY INCLUDED,
FOR EXAMPLE, REPS OF CYPRIOT, PALESTINIAN AND JORDANIAN
STUDENTS HERE. IN GENERAL, SLOGANS ALSO CRITICAL OF
KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT FOR DELAY IN "DEMOCRATIZING"
EDUCATION AND PUNISHING JUNTA LEADERS.
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